

*f1*

5. (Amended) The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 3, wherein the plant seed is a seed of a light germinator.

*f2*

Please add new claim 13 as follows:

*f2*

--13. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 1, wherein the step of refrigerating the encapsulated plant seeds is conducted at a temperature of about 15°C or lower and for a sufficient period of time to improve the germination of the encapsulated plant seeds as compared to non-refrigerated encapsulated plant seeds. --